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This review does not pretend to do justice to the many brilliant ideas and suggestions that fill this volume. But if books like del Vecchio's are to aid us in getting rid of the old eighteenth century natural law and finding some tenable rational criterion for the evaluation of our law, the limitation of the Kantian formalism must be emphasized.

The work of translation is of a high order, but is marred by a certain disregard for the accepted terminology of philosophy, as in the use of such terms as *methodic*, *phenomenic*, or *consequent* for *consistent*. The proof reading of foreign quotations shows a number of slips.

MORRIS RAPHAEL COHEN.

Societal Evolution. By ALBERT GALLOWAY KELLER. (New York: The Macmillan Company. Pp. ix + 338.)

Professor Keller holds that "the Darwinian factors of variation, selection, transmission and adaptation are active in the life of societies as in that of organisms." *Societal Evolution* is an argument in support of this thesis. The exposition is admitted to be tentative and the subject is so difficult that judgment as to the value of results of this treatment may well be suspended. The analogies pointed out may have and probably do have a basis in reality, but this relation does not seem to be sufficiently definite and secure to warrant positive conclusions. The present reviewer is far from regarding efforts to establish that relation as futile, but whether the line of approach pursued by Professor Keller is valid appears to be still an open question. The term "Societal Evolution" is sound and valuable because it makes clear that the subject is the evolution of society and its institutions and not of a series of individuals. The term points directly to *societas* and not merely to *socii*. The distinction is so important that the term deserves to be accepted by all those who hold that in the human species selective process acts directly on society and but indirectly on the individual as a member of society. But when Professor Keller goes on to argue that societal evolution is antagonistic to natural selection and that it may even issue in counterselection, confusion sets in. Although Darwin did not use the term he distinctly recognized societal evolution as a phase of natural selection—as, for instance, in the case of the social insects. The fact that through specialized function some members of the insect community have become unfit to fend for themselves is not evidence of conflict between societal evolution and natural selection, but merely that when natural selection as-

sumes a societal phase different standards of fitness intervene. Because a scholar is not so well fitted to extract subsistence directly from nature as an Australian Blackfellow it does not follow that the scholar's disability is evidence of counterselection. But that seems to be Professor Keller's conclusion, for he says that "the whole trend of civilization is to interpose barriers to the action of natural selection." This impresses a narrower meaning on the term than is sanctioned by Darwinism, for according to it all that civilization can do is to modify the conditions under which natural selection operates with corresponding modification of results. Natural selection continues just as gravitation continues whether one roosts in a tree top or sleeps in a bed, but the consequences if one falls out will be different.

HENRY JONES FORD.

Applied City Government. By HERMAN G. JAMES. (New York: Harper and Bros. Pp. ix + 106.)

This treatise gives practical suggestions and expository instances on the principles and practice of city charter making. The suggestions are in the main judicious but in some important features Professor James does not make sufficient allowance for effect of environment. For instance, he advocates the abolition of primary elections in municipal politics and proposes that any qualified voter who so desires be allowed to enter his name on the official ballot. He holds that this unrestricted privilege would not cause a multiplicity of candidates because such facility of nomination practically exists in England and yet candidates are few. True, but in England the expense of providing the ballot is not borne by the community but is collected from the candidates, and—more important still—nominations are made only for representative office to which no compensation is attached. All that municipal candidates can contend for is the privilege of serving the community at one's own expense. Such conditions restrict the number of candidates and such conditions would have to be reproduced in this country to secure a similar result. Professor James proposes to approximate such conditions by confining elections to the choice of unsalaried commissioners who shall elect at large for an indefinite term a mayor or city manager who shall conduct the administration. But even with such sound conditions established in municipal government, there would still be encountered the corrupting influence of county and state politics. Tammany Hall subsists more